



Knowledge Organiser

History: Stone Age

Year 3/4 AUTUMN TERM 1

The Stone Age was a time in history when early humans used tools and weapons made out of stone. It lasted from when the first stone tools were made, by our ancestors, about 3.4 million years ago.

Enquiry Questions

Question 1

Was Stone Age man simply a hunter and gatherer, concerned only with survival?

Answer:

- Hunter-gatherers spent most of their time hunting and fashioning tools from flint and wood to ensure effective hunting.
- However, cave paintings and headdresses (to attend ceremonies) were found by archaeologists which tells us that Stone Age man wanted to record and enrich their lives.

Question 2

How different was life in the Stone Age when man started to farm?

Answer

- There were a few big changes such as starting to live on small settlements, growing crops (such as wheat and barley) and training oxen to pull ploughs.
- They also started to clear woodland, keep pigs and cattle, make pots and have complicated burial ceremonies.
- However, they did continue to hunt and use stone tools, the same as before.

Question 3

What can we learn about life in the Stone Age from a study of Skara Brae?

Answer

- Skara Brae was inhabited before the Egyptian pyramids were built, and flourished for centuries. It is some 5,000 years old.
- The structures of this village survive in impressive condition. So, amazingly, does the furniture in the village houses.
- Findings tell us that the people were more domesticated, living in houses with a 'latrine,' they ate a varied diet including beef, lamb and fish, and they also kept animals as pets.

Question 4

Why is it so difficult to work out why Stonehenge was built?

Answer

- It was built so long ago, it may always be a secret!
- Some of the theories are: it was a holy place for people to travel from far and wide to worship, it is a gigantic calendar, it was a special place where

they buried an important person or it could be a place of healing.

Question 5:

How much did life really change during the Iron Age and how can we possibly know?

Answer

- We know that they continued to develop and use new resources. They planted crops, mined flint, wove woollen cloth and created a farming community.
- As Danebury had few natural resources, it relied on trade with other areas to obtain iron, tin, copper, salt, and stone. It is likely that woollen products and grain were traded in exchange for these.

Question 6: Can you solve the mystery of the 52 skeletons of Maiden Castle?

Answer

- It happened so long ago, it may always be a secret!
- Some of the theories are: that the men were hastily placed in graves after a big battle with the Romans, the bodies were in a cemetery used to bury soldiers and other people over a period of time, there was a big argument inside the tribe that lived there, ending in bloodshed, or the dead bodies had been involved in fights with neighbouring tribes.

Important Facts

- The Stone Age is divided into three periods: the Old Stone Age (Palaeolithic), the Middle Stone Age (Mesolithic), and the New Stone Age (Neolithic).
- The term 'lithic' comes from the Ancient Greek word for stone or Rock.

Key Vocabulary

Key vocabulary: Hunter gatherer Stone Age Survival Spears Archaeologists Artefacts Evidence Comparison Star Carr Neolithic New Stone Age Farmers Farming Ploughing Felled Growing Settlements Stone tools Excavations Skara Brae Stonehenge Theories Secrets Travel Lithic Sarsen Danebury Hill Fort Excavated Iron Age Settlement Reconstruct Violent Wollen cloth Natural resources Maiden Castle Iron Age Hill Fort Tribes Ballista Bolts Romans

Useful websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk>

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/stone-age/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk/articles/z34djxs>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/history-and-stories/stonehenge360/>

Useful pictures:



